




Our Native Heritage

 **Knowledge for the Community**

Help Desk: 703 771-5150	Website: www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org	e-mail: ex107mg@vt.edu
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What are Native Plants?


Plant species that were here prior to European settlement*

Native plants form “plant communities”

* VA Department of Conservation & Recreation

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What are Native Plants?

Native species are those that occur in the region in which they evolved. Plants evolve over geologic time in response to physical and biotic processes characteristic of a region: the climate, soils, timing of rainfall, drought, and frost; and interactions with the other species inhabiting the local community.



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How do you Know it's Native?

- Use the scientific or botanic name
- *Viburnum dentatum* (Genus and Species)
- *The Species must be native*
- *If the species is native so is the variety or cultivar.*



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Why Should We 'Go Native'?

- Save time
- Save money
- Save the environment



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Native Plants Save the Environment

- Maintain the distinctive look of the area.
- Decrease harmful fertilizer run-off that threatens our streams and rivers
- Decrease need for watering
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Increase nesting success for birds
- Contribute to the overall health of natural communities



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Know Your Ecosystem

- Living organisms
 - Animals
 - Plants
- Physical environment
 - Soil
 - Sun
 - Water



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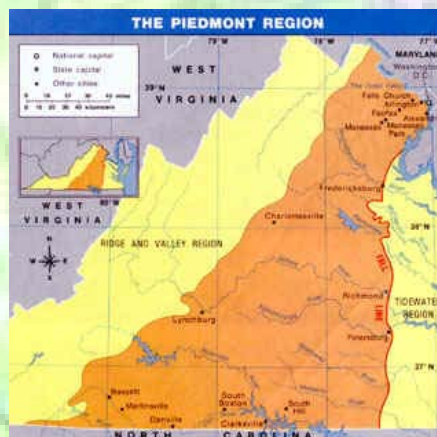
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The Piedmont Region

- One of three ecosystems in VA
- Between growing zones 6 & 7



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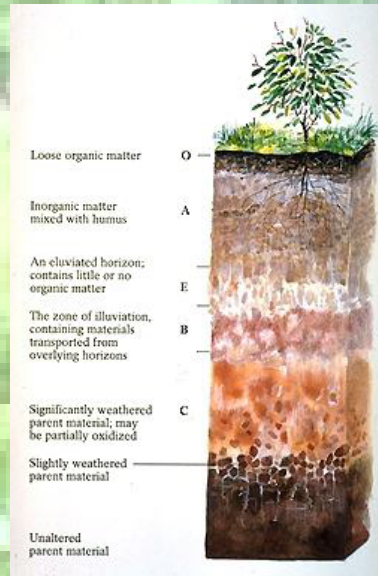
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Loudoun Soil

- Loam
- Silt
- Clay

*Do you know what
your pH is?*



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Compost — Black Gold



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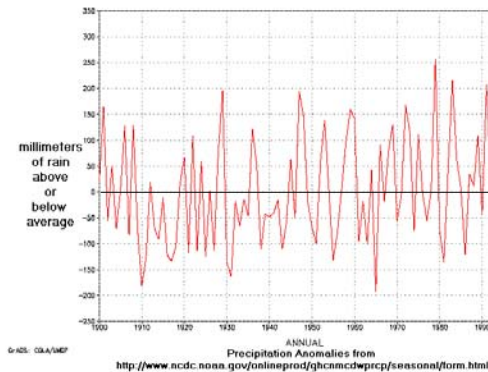
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VA Rainfall



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VA Turf

Cool-season

- Kentucky Bluegrass
- Tall Fescue
- Perennial Ryegrass

Warm-season

- Zoysiagrass
- Bermudagrass

Consider turf alternatives



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Native Grasses



Big Bluestem



Little Bluestem



Broom Sedge



Sideoats Grama



Switch Grass



Indian Grass



Eastern Gamma Grass



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Native Shade Trees



Red Maple



Sugar Maple



River Birch



Sweetgum



Tulip Poplar



Black Gum



White Oak



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Native Flowering Trees



Serviceberry



Pawpaw



Eastern Redbud



Fringe Tree



Pagoda Dogwood



Green Hawthorn



Carolina Silverbell



Witch Hazel



Sweetbay



Sourwood



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Mulch



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Native Shrubs



Pinksterbloom Azalea



American Beautyberry



Yaupon Holly



Black Huckleberry



Blackhaw Viburnum



Common Winterberry



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Native Viburnum

- Arrow-wood viburnum *Viburnum dentatum*
- Maple leaf viburnum *Viburnum acerifolium*
- Possum-haw *Viburnum nudum*
- Black haw *Viburnum prunifolium*



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Native Perennials



Coreopsis



Creeping Phlox



Goldenrod



Joe-pye Weed



Monarda



Wild Geranium



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Native-scaping!

- Sustainable Landscape Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Right Plants for Your Environment



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Resources

- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat & Conservation Landscaping Chesapeake Bay Watershed
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/>
- Green Spring Garden Park
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/PARKS/gsgp/gardening.htm>
- Virginia Native Plant Society
<http://www.vnps.org>
- Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/>
- Virginia Department of Forestry
<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/trees/index.shtml>



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Native Plant Nurseries

- Nature by Design
Alexandria, VA
- Enchanter's Garden
Hinton, WV
- Sassafras Farm
Hayes, VA
- Hill House Farm & Nursery
Castleton, VA



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Loudoun County Master Gardener Activities

- Help Desk to answer your questions (9:00 - noon, Mon - Fri)
- Demonstration Garden at Ida Lee Park to see the latest gardening techniques
- Tues Lunch & Learns, Ida Lee Garden, noon
- Gardening Clinics at Farmers Markets (May thru Sep)
- Monthly meeting with gardening experts (first Thursday at the Extension Office, 7:00 pm)
- Many others!



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